

10 October 2008

Chem-Bio News

1. US OFFICIALS FEAR TERRORIST LINKS WITH DRUG LORDS: *"But Charles Allen, chief of intelligence analysis at the Homeland Security Department, said they could use well-established smuggling routes and drug profits to bring people or even weapons of mass destruction to the U.S."*

2. FOUR-WEEK DRILL AIDS NUCLEAR-WEAPON TEST INSPECTORS: *"A major exercise conducted last month reinforced the world's ability to verify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, the chief CTBT inspector said."*

3. RESEARCHERS DISCOVER HOW INFECTIOUS BACTERIA CAN SWITCH SPECIES: *"Scientists from the Universities of Bath and Exeter have developed a rapid new way of checking for toxic genes in disease-causing bacteria which infect insects and humans. Their findings could in the future lead to new vaccines and antibacterial drugs."*

4. NANOSCOPIC SCREENING PROCESS TO SPEED DRUG DISCOVERY: *"By working at this scale, we will be able to screen more than a billion possible drug candidates per day as opposed to the current limit of hundreds of thousands per day."*

5. U.S. MAY DROP NORTH KOREA FROM TERRORISM LIST: REPORT: *"The move would be an effort to keep a nuclear disarmament pact with North Korea from falling apart, the newspaper said in an article posted on its website, quoting sources close to the administration."*

Chem Demil News

1. PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT - BUDGET LIFTS LIMITS ON DEPOT SPENDING: *"The 2009 continuing resolution that President Bush signed last week to keep the federal government operating until next October includes \$147 million to continue the chemical demilitarization work at Pueblo Chemical Depot and roughly \$700 million in construction projects at Fort Carson."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

US OFFICIALS FEAR TERRORIST LINKS WITH DRUG LORDS

By Curt Anderson

Associated Press on Google News

October 9, 2008

"There is real danger that Islamic extremist groups such as al-Qaida and Hezbollah could form alliances with wealthy and powerful Latin American drug lords to launch new terrorist

attacks, U.S. officials said Wednesday.

Extremist group operatives have already been identified in several Latin American countries, mostly involved in fundraising and finding logistical support. But Charles Allen, chief of intelligence analysis at the Homeland Security Department, said they could use well-established smuggling routes and drug profits to bring people or even weapons of mass destruction to the U.S.”

The full article can be found at: http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jsIE-UFw5_bhsz9A-BMzwydnDIkgD93MGFB80

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FOUR-WEEK DRILL AIDS NUCLEAR-WEAPON TEST INSPECTORS

Global Security Newswire

October 10, 2008

“A major exercise conducted last month reinforced the world’s ability to verify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, the chief CTBT inspector said.

“In a comparatively short period of time, a great wealth of knowledge has been created. It will bring the verification regime closer and closer to a state of readiness,” Tibor Toth, head of the treaty’s provisional implementing organization, said in a statement from Vienna today.

While signed already by 180 nations, the treaty to ban all nuclear explosions cannot enter into force until ratified by nine specific countries: China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Pakistan, North Korea and the United States.

The four-week exercise conducted in Kazakhstan involved investigating the fictitious state of Arcania, which was suspected by a neighboring nation of having conducted a nuclear test. The neighbor asked the treaty organization to conduct an on-site inspection, a request that mobilized 40 inspectors during the exercise.”

The full article can be found at: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20081009_5146.php

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RESEARCHERS DISCOVER HOW INFECTIOUS BACTERIA CAN SWITCH SPECIES

Infection Control Today Magazine

October 9, 2008

“Scientists from the Universities of Bath and Exeter have developed a rapid new way of checking for toxic genes in disease-causing bacteria which infect insects and humans. Their findings could in the future lead to new vaccines and antibacterial drugs.

They studied a bacterium called *Photobacterium* *asymbiotica*, which normally infects and kills insects, but which can also cause an unpleasant infection in humans.

By testing groups of genes from the bacteria against three types of invertebrates (insects, worms and amoebae) and mammalian cells, the scientists were able to identify toxins and other molecules, called virulence factors, made by the bacteria that allow it to infect each type of organism.

By pinning down the genes responsible for each of these possible virulence factors and comparing them with the genes of well known bacteria, the scientists have been able to map out which regions of the bacteria's DNA control its ability to infect and damage invertebrates, and also potentially humans."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/hotnews/infectious-bacteria-switch-species.html>

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NANOSCOPIC SCREENING PROCESS TO SPEED DRUG DISCOVERY

Wake Forest University News Release

October 6, 2008

"The "Lab-on-Bead" process will screen millions of chemicals simultaneously using tiny plastic beads so small that 1,000 of them would fit across a human hair. Each bead carries a separate chemical, which can be identified later if it displays the properties needed to treat cancer cells. One batch of nanoscopic beads can replace the work of thousands of conventional, repetitive laboratory tests.

"This process allows the beads to do the work for you," explains Jed Macosko, project director and assistant professor of physics at Wake Forest. "By working at this scale, we will be able to screen more than a billion possible drug candidates per day as opposed to the current limit of hundreds of thousands per day."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.wfu.edu/news/release/2008.10.06.n.php>

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U.S. MAY DROP NORTH KOREA FROM TERRORISM LIST: REPORT

Reuters

October 9, 2008

"The Bush administration looks poised to provisionally remove North Korea from the State Department's terrorism blacklist, perhaps as soon as Friday, The Washington Post reported on Thursday.

The move would be an effort to keep a nuclear disarmament pact with North Korea from falling apart, the newspaper said in an article posted on its website, quoting sources close to the administration."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSTRE49904F20081010>

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Chem Demil News

PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT - BUDGET LIFTS LIMITS ON DEPOT SPENDING

By Peter Roper

The Pueblo Chieftain

October 8, 2008

"The 2009 continuing resolution that President Bush signed last week to keep the federal government operating until next October includes \$147 million to continue the chemical demilitarization work at Pueblo Chemical Depot and roughly \$700 million in construction projects at Fort Carson.

Irene Kornelly, chairwoman of the Colorado Chemical Demilitarization Citizens Advisory Commission, said the 2009 appropriation will simply extend the 2008 operating budget for another year."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.chieftain.com/articles/2008/10/08/news/local/doc48ec5255048c4076217918.txt>

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Steve Tesko: Steve.Tesko@anser.org

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